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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/375,901	08/17/1999	EDWARD B. KNUDSON	UV-100	5773

7590 09/10/2002

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EXAMINER

BUI, KIEU OANH T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2611

DATE MAILED: 09/10/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/375,901

Applicant(s)

KNUDSON, EDWARD B.

Examiner

KIEU-OANH T BUI

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 29-106 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 29-106 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 29-76 and new claims 77-106 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 29-106 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over LaJoie et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,850,218) in view of Williams et al. (U.S. Patent 5,977,964).

Regarding claim 29, LaJoie et al (or "LaJoie" hereinafter) discloses an interactive program guide that provides access to content from a plurality of available media types, i.e., program guide services is offered to users from a plurality of media types/sources such as VOD, NVOD, the Internet and other services (Fig. 5 and col. 5/lines 2-58), the interactive program guide comprising:

"means for designating at least one channel as a favorite channel based on user selections," i.e, the favorite channel setting is provided to a user to select their preferred channel (Fig. 15 and col. 23/lines 1-34);

“means for designating at least one or the available media types as a preferred media type,” i.e., based on the look up table as shown in Fig. 5, the user can select their own preferred media type (Fig. 5 and col. 16/lines 10-28); and

“means for providing a user with the ability to select at least one favorite channel from each of the preferred media types,” i.e., the user uses a remote controller (as illustrated in Fig. 15/remote keys) as means for selecting at least one favorite channel from each of the preferred media type (as shown in Fig. 5).

LaJoie does not show in the previous step of “wherein means for designating at least one or the available media types as a preferred media type for a user determined period of time independently from designating a favorite channel” (as recently amended); however, Williams teaches in Williams’ method and apparatus for automatically configuring a system based on a user’s monitored system interaction and preferred access time that Joe User can customizes his favorite channels with different types of media independently, for instance, the system allows Joe User to customize video and audio settings independently for different programs or channels according to different sources of media, i.e., Internet, cable television or satellite broadcasts for surround sounds types such as Dolby Surround, Dolby Digital, Stereo, and so on or most watched shows, most listening channels/stations per source or favorite commercials (Fig. 8, and col. 5/line 52 to col. 7/line 19). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify LaJoie’s interactive program guide with Williams’ teaching technique of allowing users to customize or designate their favorite channels a determined period of time besides the default setting (Williams, col. 7/lines 20-30) independently from designating a favorite channel as an enhanced feature in order to automatically configure a system based on user’s monitored system interaction for the purpose of providing flexible and proper programs as well as independently and preferred media sources to the user automatically and dynamically as suggested by Williams (col. 1/line 39 to col. 2/line 9).

As for claim 30, in view of claim 29 above, LaJoie further discloses “wherein the means for providing the user with the ability to select at least one favorite channel from each of the preferred media types comprises: means for displaying a list of channels comprising at least one favorite channel from at least one of the preferred media types; and means for providing the user with the ability to select any favorite channel from any of the preferred media types from the list of channels”, i.e., a list of favorite channels are displayed in the display 306 (Fig. 15/item 306 and col. 23/lines 1-10) and the user uses a remote controller (as illustrated in Fig. 15/remote keys) as means for selecting at least one favorite channel from each of the preferred media type (as shown in Fig. 5).

As for claim 31, in further view of claim 30 above, LaJoie further discloses “wherein the means for providing the user with the ability to select any favorite channel further comprises moving a highlight among only favorite channel listings from any of the preferred media types”, i.e., the user uses a highlight by moving a cursor on available channels in the preferred media types (as shown in Fig. 5) in selecting any favorite channel, for example, a Disney channel is selected in this scenario (Fig. 15 and col. 23/lines 1-34).

As for claim 32, in further view of claim 29, LaJoie further discloses “wherein the means for providing the user with the ability to select at least one favorite channel from each of the preferred media types comprises: means for displaying a flip display, wherein the flip display comprises information for a favorite channel from any of the preferred media types; and means for tuning the flip display to a next favorite channel from any of the preferred media types”, i.e., LaJoie offers an additional feature for displaying the information or description of a program during the setting or adding a favorite channel into the favorite channel list in a flip display because the user can flip back to return to the TV display (as illustrated in Fig. 9 and col. 19/line 39 to col. 20/line 52).

As for claim 33, in further view of claim 29 above, LaJoie shows “wherein the means for providing the user with the ability to select at least one favorite channel from each of the preferred media types comprises: means for displaying a browse display, wherein the browse display comprises information for a favorite channel from any of the preferred media types; and means for tuning the browse display to a next favorite channel from any of the preferred media types”, i.e., browsing display is offered with the scrolling up and down the list of available preferred channels (Fig. 15 and col. 23/lines 24-34).

As for claim 34, in further view of claim 29 above, LaJoie further shows “wherein the means for designating at least one of the available media types as a preferred media type for a user determined period of time comprises designating a media type associated with a current channel as a preferred media type”, i.e., descriptive information or logo can be displayed to the user for a current (selected) channel as means for designating at least one of the available media types as a preferred media type (col. 16/lines 29-51); and Williams reveals the system allows Joe User to customize video and audio settings independently for different programs or channels according to different sources of media, i.e., Internet, cable television or satellite broadcasts for surround sounds types such as Dolby Surround, Dolby Digital, Stereo, and so on or most watched shows, most listening channels/stations per source or favorite commercials (Fig. 8, and col. 5/line 52 to col. 7/line 19).

With respect to claim 35, in further view of claim 29 above, the step of “comprising means for providing the user with the ability to store information about at least one favorite channel from each of the preferred media types in a preference profile” is taught by LaJoie as LaJoie offers to include a memory for storing information such as interactive program guide data about the at least one favorite channel (col. 13/lines 35-65).

As for claim 36, in further view of claim 29 above, LaJoie further reveals “wherein each of the plurality of the available media types is selected from a group consisting of television, video, music, audio, video-on-demand, digital audio, and games media types”, i.e, a plurality of multimedia services is offered in LaJoie’s interactive information delivery system (see col. 1/lines 5-54).

Regarding claim 37, LaJoie discloses “an interactive program guide that provides access to content from a plurality of available media types, the interactive program guide comprising: means for designating at least one channel as a favorite channel based on user selections, i.e, the favorite channel setting is provided to a user to select their preferred channel (Fig. 15 and col. 23/lines 1-34); means for designating at least one of the available media types as a preferred media type, i.e., based on the look up table as shown in Fig. 5, the user can select their own preferred media type (Fig. 5 and col. 16/lines 10-28); and means for displaying to a user a single favorite channel listing from each of the preferred media types, wherein each favorite channel listing is selectable by the user”, i.e., the user uses a remote controller (as illustrated in Fig. 15/remote keys) as means for selecting at least one favorite channel from each of the preferred media type (as shown in Fig. 5) from a single favorite channel listing, LaJoie uses tables to cross reference channel numbers to sources of programs and services in order to allow channel settings more easily such as for favorite channels based on their media types (see col. 5/lines 22-53).

LaJoie does not disclose in the previous step of “wherein means for designating at least one or the available media types as a preferred media type for a user determined period of time independently from designating a favorite channel” (as recently amended); however, Williams teaches in Williams’ method and apparatus for automatically configuring a system based on a user’s monitored system interaction and preferred access time that Joe User can customizes his favorite channels with different types of media independently, for instance, the system allows Joe User to customize video and audio settings independently for different programs or channels

according to different sources of media, i.e., Internet, cable television or satellite broadcasts for surround sounds types such as Dolby Surround, Dolby Digital, Stereo, and so on or most watched shows, most listening channels/stations per source or favorite commercials (Fig. 8, and col. 5/line 52 to col. 7/line 19). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify LaJoie's interactive program guide with Williams' teaching technique of allowing users to customize or designate their favorite channels a determined period of time besides the default setting (Williams, col. 7/lines 20-30) independently from designating a favorite channel as an enhanced feature in order to automatically configure a system based on user's monitored system interaction for the purpose of providing flexible and proper programs as well as independently and preferred media sources to the user automatically and dynamically as suggested by Williams (col. 1/line 39 to col. 2/line 9).

Regarding claims 38-44, these system claims with same limitations of system claims 30-36 are rejected for the reasons given in the same scope of claims 30-36 as already disclosed above.

Regarding claims 45-52, these method claims for "a method for providing access to content from a plurality of media types with an interactive program guide comprising: designating at least one channel as a. favorite channel based on user selections; designating at least one of the available media types as a preferred media type based on user selections; and providing a user with the ability to select at least one favorite channel from each of the preferred media types" drawing to corresponding system claims 29-36 are rejected for the reasons given in the scope of system claims 29-36 as already disclosed above.

Regarding claims 53-60, these method claims for “a method for providing access to content from a plurality of media types with an interactive program guide comprising: designating at least one channel as a favorite channel based on user selections; designating at least one of the available media types as a preferred media type based on user selections; and displaying to a user a single favorite channel listing from each of the preferred media types, wherein each favorite channel listing is selectable by the user” drawing to corresponding system claims 37-44 are rejected for the reasons given in the scope of system claims 37-44 as already disclosed above.

Regarding claim 61, LaJoie discloses a system for providing access to content from a plurality of available media types (Figs. 1 & 5, and col. 1/lines 5-54), the system comprising: a user input device configured to accept user selections (Fig. 15/Remote keys for accepting user selections); and computer equipment, i.e., a set-top terminal with its computer software (col. 4/line 66 to col. 5/line 57), configured to: designate at least one channel as a favorite channel, i.e., the favorite channel setting is provided to a user to select their preferred channel (Fig. 15 and col. 23/lines 1-34); designate at least one of the available media types as a preferred media type³ based on user selections, i.e., based on the look up table as shown in Fig. 5, the user can select their own preferred media type (Fig. 5 and col. 16/lines 10-28); and provide a user with the ability to select at least one favorite channel from each of the preferred media types, i.e., the user uses a remote controller (as illustrated in Fig. 15/remote keys) as means for selecting at least one favorite channel from each of the preferred media type (as shown in Fig. 5).

LaJoie does not disclose in the previous step of “wherein means for designating at least one or the available media types as a preferred media type for a user determined period of time independently from designating a favorite channel” (as recently amended); however, Williams teaches in Williams’ method and apparatus for automatically configuring a system based on a user’s monitored system interaction and preferred access time that Joe User can customizes his

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favorite channels with different types of media independently, for instance, the system allows Joe User to customize video and audio settings independently for different programs or channels according to different sources of media, i.e., Internet, cable television or satellite broadcasts for surround sounds types such as Dolby Surround, Dolby Digital, Stereo, and so on or most watched shows, most listening channels/stations per source or favorite commercials (Fig. 8, and col. 5/line 52 to col. 7/line 19). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify LaJoie's interactive program guide with Williams' teaching technique of allowing users to customize or designate their favorite channels a determined period of time besides the default setting (Williams, col. 7/lines 20-30) independently from designating a favorite channel as an enhanced feature in order to automatically configure a system based on user's monitored system interaction for the purpose of providing flexible and proper programs as well as independently and preferred media sources to the user automatically and dynamically as suggested by Williams (col. 1/line 39 to col. 2/line 9).

Regarding claims 62-68, these system claims with same limitations of system claims 30-36 are rejected for the reasons given in the same scope of claims 30-36 as already disclosed above.

Regarding claim 69, LaJoie discloses a system that provides access to content from a plurality of available media types (Figs. 1 & 5, and col. 1/lines 5-54), the system comprising: a user input device configured to accept user selections (Fig. 15/Remote keys for accepting user selections); and user equipment, i.e., a set-top terminal with its computer software (col. 4/line 66 to col. 5/line 57), configured to: designate at least one channel as a favorite channel based on user selections, i.e, the favorite channel setting is provided to a user to select their preferred channel (Fig. 15 and col. 23/lines 1-34); designate at least one of the available media types as a preferred media type, i.e., based on the look up table as shown in Fig. 5, the user can select their own preferred media type (Fig. 5 and col. 16/lines 10-28); and display to a user a single favorite

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channel listing from each of the preferred media types, wherein each favorite channel listing is selectable by the user, i.e., the user uses a remote controller (as illustrated in Fig. 15/remote keys) as means for selecting at least one favorite channel from each of the preferred media type (as shown in Fig. 5) from a single favorite channel listing, LaJoie uses tables to cross reference channel numbers to sources of programs and services in order to allow channel settings more easily such as for favorite channels based on their media types (see col. 5/lines 22-53).

LaJoie does not disclose in the previous step of “wherein means for designating at least one or the available media types as a preferred media type for a user determined period of time independently from designating a favorite channel” (as recently amended); however, Williams teaches in Williams’ method and apparatus for automatically configuring a system based on a user’s monitored system interaction and preferred access time that Joe User can customizes his favorite channels with different types of media independently, for instance, the system allows Joe User to customize video and audio settings independently for different programs or channels according to different sources of media, i.e., Internet, cable television or satellite broadcasts for surround sounds types such as Dolby Surround, Dolby Digital, Stereo, and so on or most watched shows, most listening channels/stations per source or favorite commercials (Fig. 8, and col. 5/line 52 to col. 7/line 19). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify LaJoie’s interactive program guide with Williams’ teaching technique of allowing users to customize or designate their favorite channels a determined period of time besides the default setting (Williams, col. 7/lines 20-30) independently from designating a favorite channel as an enhanced feature in order to automatically configure a system based on user’s monitored system interaction for the purpose of providing flexible and proper programs as well as independently and preferred media sources to the user automatically and dynamically as suggested by Williams (col. 1/line 39 to col. 2/line 9).

Regarding claims 70-76 and 77-106, these system claims with same limitations of system claims 30-36 are rejected for the reasons given in the same scope of claims 30-36 and 29-44, respectively, with whether a preferred media type has not been designated, all selected favorite channels are displayed (as in default setting) and a preferred media type has been designated, the system only displays the favorite and selected programs/channels to users (see claim 1 and Williams for this feature, col. 6/line 25 to col. 7/line 30) as already disclosed above.

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

5. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314, (for Technology Center 2600 only)


Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Krista Kieu-Oanh Bui whose telephone number is (703) 305-0095. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, with alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Faile, can be reached on (703) 305-4380.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Krista Bui
Art Unit 2611
September 03, 2002



Bhavesh Mehta
Primary Examiner